

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 OMB-01 TAR-02 SPC-03 AGR-20

AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 OIC-04

RSC-01 SIL-01 STR-08 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CEA-02 AF-10

ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 ABF-01 L-03 DRC-01 /182 W

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R 111037Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1610

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG

SUBJ: GENEVA GROUP (UNCTAD) AND (GENERAL) SESSION  
SEPTEMBER 10, 1973

1. GENEVA GROUP (GENEVAL) SESSION SEPTEMBER 10 CHAIRED BY UK AND ATTENDED BY ALL MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS EXCEPT AUSTRALIA.
2. AGENDA COMPRISED A) REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CONSULTATIONS WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; B) GENEVA GROUP (UNCTAD) DISCUSSION PRIOR TO MEETING OF THE 5TH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN NEW YORK, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO DOCUMENTS TD/B/421 PART II AND TD/B/441 ANNEX II.
3. RE AGENDA ITEM A, NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR STATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO WITHDRAW PROPOSAL FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BUT LEFT OPEN POSSIBILITY OF REVIEWING SITUATION DURING 11 TH CONSULTATION LEVEL MEETING OF GENEVA GROUP. ITALY EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT USE PROPOSAL MAY BE EXAMINED AGAIN.

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4. RE AGENDA ITEM B, UK NOTED FOLLOWING PROBLEM AREAS FOR

CONSIDERATION: (1) DIFFICULTY IN EVALUATING UNCTAD WORK PROGRAM IN PREPARATION FOR MEETINGS WHEN DOCUMENTS RECEIVED TOO LATE, (2) NEW BUDGET LAYOUT USEFUL BUT DOES NOT CONTAIN SOME OF DETAIL PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED, WHICH NECESSARY FOR THOROUGH ANALYSIS, (3) NEED TO RE-EVALUATE IDEA OF PICKING ONE UNCTAD PROGRAM EACH YEAR FOR IN-DEPTH STUDY, (4) NEED FOR MORE INFORMATION ON QUANTITY OF WORK BEING DONE ON MTN, (5) INCREASING WEIGHT OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN BUDGET AND USE OF UNCTAD REGULAR BUDGET FOR SUPPORT OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS, (6) LACK OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONTROL OVER UNCTAD USE OF CONSULTANTS, (7) SECRETARIAT NO LONGER REQUIRED TO IDENTIFY PRIORITIES.

5. US STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF THE ITEMS CONCERNING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SUPPORT, SYSTEM OF PRIORITIES, AND CALLED FOR GREATER SCRUTINY OF SECRETARIAT'S USE OF EXPERT GROUPS, WHICH FOR MOST PART HAVE NO LEGISLATIVE AUTHORIZATION OR STATED TERMS OF REFERENCE. CANADA AND SWITZERLAND EXPRESSED DESIRE SEE MORE DONE ON QUESTION OF PRIORITIES.

6. THERE WAS LITTLE ENTHUSIASM IN MEETING TO DISCUSS ISSUES IN DETAIL. PRIVATELY SEVERAL DELEGATES QUESTIONED NEED FOR GG ON UNCTAD SINCE ALREADY HAD GROUP B. FRANCE, WHICH PUSHED FOR RECONVENING OF GG HAD NOTHING TO SAY. CHAIR SAW NO NEED FOR FURTHER SESSION UNTIL PERHAPS NEXT BIANNUAL BUDGET IN 1975.

7. OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS: UK OF THE OPINION THAT INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER SHOULD NOT BECOME AREA OF CONCERN FOR GENEVA GROUP AND OTHER MEMBERS DID NOT VOICE ANY OBJECTION. A MEETING GENEVA GROUP (WMO) IS TO BE HELD THE WEEK OF 17 SEPTEMBER TO DISCUSS STATUS OF WMO BUDGET. BASSIN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973GENEVA04835  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** GENEVA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730943/aaaabfsi.tel  
**Line Count:** 92  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 OCT 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04-Oct-2001 by eisnerah>; APPROVED <04-Dec-2001 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GENEVA GROUP (UNCTAD) AND (GENERAL) SESSION SEPTEMBER 10, 1973  
**TAGS:** AORG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005